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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 09/811,466 | 03/20/2001 | Masanobu Kanazawa | 122.1445 | 7961 |
| 21171 | 7590 | 07/23/2004 | | |
| STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005 | | | | |
| | | | EXAMINER GODDARD, BRIAN D | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2171 | PAPER NUMBER 10 |
| DATE MAILED: 07/23/2004 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/811,466

Applicant(s)

KANAZAWA, MASANOBU

Examiner

Brian Goddard

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination filed 28 May 2004 (entering Amendment B, filed 20 April 2004).
2. Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 13 are independent claims. In Amendment B, claims 1-8, 11 and 13 were amended. This action is non-final.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1-2 and 5 are objected to because of the following informalities: The two instances of the phrase "a membership management system" in the preamble of claim 1 are redundant, and blur the scope of the claim. The examiner believes the intended recitation is "A membership management system, comprising..." instead of "A membership management system in a membership management system..." The word "a" should be inserted before "membership registration guidance display unit" or the word "unit" should be pluralized (whichever is appropriate) in the sixth line of claim 2. The word "a" should be inserted before "searching unit" or the word "unit" should be pluralized (whichever is appropriate) in the fourth line of claim 5. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,785 to Klug et al.

Referring to claim 1, Klug discloses a membership management method in a membership management system as claimed. See Figures 1-8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches "a membership management method [Figs. 2-8] in a membership management system [Fig. 1] comprising:

at least one apparatus [WWW Client Node 108] connected via a network [WWW 104];

a database [148] held by each of a plurality of service provision sites [Third Party Web Sites 116]; and

a database [144] held by an integrated membership management center [Registrar Web Site 100], wherein when a user makes an application [Steps 404-408] for a registration of membership information [User Registration Information] to one of the service provision sites [See Step 404] by using said apparatus, the one of the service provision sites receiving the application registers [Steps 432-436] at least a part of the membership information into the database [148] held by the one of the service provision sites [See column 5, lines 7-12], and when the membership information is not registered [Fig. 4] in a database [144] held by the integrated membership management center, the integrated membership management center registers [Step 428 (See Figs.

2-3)) the membership information into [Step 236] the database [144] held by the integrated membership management center, where the membership information comprises a user ID and a password [See Abstract, Summary of the Invention, & Figures 4-8] and the integrated membership management center allows the user to use a same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites [See Abstract and Summary of the Invention, specifically column 2, lines 2-19]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 2, Klug discloses a membership management system as claimed. Again, see Figures 1-8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches "a membership management system [Figure 1] comprising: at least one apparatus [WWW Client Node 108] connected via a network [WWW 104]; a database [148] held by each of a plurality of service provision sites [Third Party Web Sites 116]; and a database [144] held by an integrated membership management center [Registrar Web Site 100], wherein each service provision site comprises:

- membership registration guidance display unit [registration fill-out forms] requesting a user to register membership information [See Steps 408-428];

- a guide unit guiding the user to obtain from the at least one apparatus [the user submits the registration information] the membership information that has been input from the apparatus based on a guidance of the membership registration guidance display unit [See Steps 216-220 and 432];

- a requesting unit requesting the integrated membership management center to register the membership information [See Step 424];

a unit obtaining [See Step 800] from the integrated membership management center the information about whether the requested membership information has already been registered in the integrated membership management center or whether the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration [See Figs. 4-6 & 8]; and

a post unit posting to the at least one apparatus a user ID and a password, which are authenticated by the integrated membership management center [See Fig. 2B (Steps 240-256)] allowing the user to use the same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites [See Claim 1 above]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 3, Klug discloses the membership management system as claimed. See the discussion regarding claim 2 above for the details of this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches the membership management system according to claim 2, as above, "wherein the integrated membership management center comprises:

a search unit searching for a record that coincides with user information when receiving from a service provision site a request for registering membership information [See Step 800];

a unit preparing the user ID and the password and adding the user ID and the password to a database when there is no record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search [See Steps 236-256];

an adder adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services from the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the

requested registration membership information as a result of the search [See Steps 432-440]; and

a post unit posting the user ID and the password authenticated by the integrated membership management center to the service provision site [See Step 432]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 4, Klug discloses the membership management system as claimed. See the discussion regarding claim 2 above for the details of this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches the membership management system according to claim 2, as above, "wherein the membership registration guidance display unit [See the discussion regarding claim 2 above] requests the user to input items of membership information for the integrated membership management center [See Figs. 2-3] even if the input items of information are not necessary for the service provision site [See Figs. 4-8]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 5, Klug discloses an integrated membership management center as claimed. See Figures 1-8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches "an integrated membership management center [Registrar Web Site 100] that is connected to a plurality of service provision sites [Third Party Web Sites 116] and to at least one apparatus [WWW Client Node 108] via a network [WWW 104], the integrated membership management center comprising:

searching unit [See step 800] searching and determining whether a record exists that coincides with new membership information that a user has used when the user

has accessed a service provision site from an apparatus [See claim 3], wherein the membership information comprises a user ID and a password [See above]; and a database [144] for registering the new membership information [User Registration Information] when the searching unit determines that the new membership information is not registered in the database [See Fig. 8 and Steps 424-432] allowing a user to use the same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites [See Claim 1 above]" as claimed.

Claim 6 is rejected on the same basis as claim 3 above, in light of the basis for claim 5. See the discussions regarding claims 3 and 5 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claim 7 is rejected on the same basis as claim 4. See the discussions regarding claims 2 and 4 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claims 8-13 are rejected on the same basis as claims 2-7 respectively. See the discussions regarding claims 2-7 above for the details of this disclosure.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 20 April 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Referring to applicant's remarks on pages 8-9 regarding the Section 102 rejections of the independent claims: Applicant argued that Klug fails to teach or suggest allowing the user to use a same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites because the focus of the description provided in the cited reference is to

allow the user to enter information to register at third party web sites, citing column 8, lines 44-67.

The examiner disagrees for the following reasons: Applicant has failed to consider the entirety of the disclosure, focusing only on a single section and ignoring the subsequent and more detailed description that follows. In column 8, lines 44-67, Klug describes only the beginning steps of user registration at a third party web site.

Although the user interacts solely with the third party web site in these beginning steps, and has the option of registering with the third party web site without using the registrar of Klug's invention, the disclosure that follows clearly shows that the purpose of Klug's invention is to allow the user to register at the third party web site using the registrar system of Klug's invention. The focus of Klug's invention is clearly laid out in the Abstract and Summary of the Invention sections of the specification, which both show that the purpose of the invention is to allow a user to use a same user ID and password throughout all the third party web sites that cooperate with the registrar site.

Referring to applicant's remarks on page 9 regarding the Section 102 rejection of the independent claims: Applicant argued that Klug fails to teach or suggest that the same user ID and password may be used as identification at other third party web sites, other than the present third party web site because it appears instead that the user would need different user IDs and passwords for each third party web site, citing column 9, lines 1-28.

The examiner disagrees for the following reasons: Again, applicant has failed to consider the entirety of the disclosure, focusing only on a single section that applicant

appears to have grossly misinterpreted, and ignoring the subsequent and more detailed description that follows. In column 9, lines 13-28, Klug describes that the user must provide the third party web site with his/her user ID (and optionally password) for the registrar web site [the user ID and password which Klug's invention intends to make common for all third party web sites] in order for the third party web site to authenticate with the registrar site to obtain the user's registration information. This authentication process, using the user ID and password just provided, is shown in more detail in Figure 5, and was further described by the examiner in the Response to Arguments of the Final Rejection (Paper No. 5). This does not suggest in any way that the user would need different user IDs and passwords for each third party web site. In fact, it shows just the opposite, because this user ID and password the user is supplying to the third party web site is his/her user ID and password for the registrar site, which Klug intends to make common for all third party web sites at which the user registers using the invention.

Again, applicant is directed to the Abstract, Summary of the Invention, and the entirety of Klug's disclosure in Figures 4-8, particularly to the detailed disclosure of Figures 6 & 8. Here, Klug clearly shows that the purpose of the invention is to provide a common user ID (and optionally password) that may be used for accessing services throughout the third party web sites.

Referring finally to applicant's remarks on pages 9-10 regarding the Section 102 rejection of the independent claims: Applicant argued that the registration information provided in Klug does not include the user ID and/or the password because the cited

reference refers to the user ID and/or the password separately from the registration information.

The examiner disagrees for the following reasons: The Klug reference refers to the user ID and/or the password separately from other registration information for three main reasons: First, user ID and password are the most important pieces of registration information for security purposes so that other sites/peoples cannot access the user's personal information that is part of the "other" registration information. Second, the common user ID and/or password cannot be registered at a third party web site if that user ID is already taken at that third party web site by another user, in which case another (similar) user ID must be generated for registration at that third party web site (and storage in the registrar database with the other registration information). Third, the common user ID and/or password may not meet the requirements of a specific third party web site, in which case another (similar) user ID must be generated for registration at that third party web site (and storage in the registrar database with the other registration information). The first case is described in conjunction with Figures 4-5, while the second and third cases are described in conjunction with Figures 6 and 8.

However, this does not in any way suggest or imply that the user ID and/or password are not included in the registration information. Figures 6 & 8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification (at minimum) explicitly show and state that the user ID and/or password are stored and included in the registration information. In conclusion, Klug explicitly teaches each and every limitation of applicant's claimed invention, including that which "the membership information comprises a user ID and a

password and the integrated membership management center allows the user to use a same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites" as shown and described above.

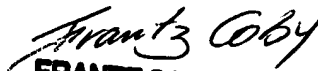
Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Goddard whose telephone number is 703-305-7821. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bdg
20 July 2004


FRANTZ COBY
PRIMARY EXAMINER